

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 8(M) (1)


TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 5, 2013

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution to appoint one board
member and reappoint one board
member to the agricultural
practices advisory board

The accompanying resolution was prepared by Regulatory and Economic Resources Department and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Vice Chair Lynda Bell and Co-Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp

Memorandum



Date: February 5, 2013

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Carlos A. Gimenez, the Mayor.

Subject: Appointment and Reappointment of Agricultural Practices Advisory Board Members

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) take the following actions for appointments of Agricultural Practices Advisory Board members:

- Appoint Ivonne Alexander to represent the Nursery Industry (Seat #2) as recommended by the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association; and
- Reappoint James S. Humble as the At-Large representative as recommended by the Agricultural Practices Board.

Scope

The Agricultural Practices Advisory Board has a countywide impact.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

There is no fiscal impact to the County.

Track Record/Monitor

Mark Woerner, Assistant Director in the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, oversees staff support of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board.

Background

The Agricultural Practices Advisory Board consists of thirteen members representing a variety of agricultural industries. Section 2-935, Code of Miami-Dade County, requires that the Board fill vacancies occurring on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board. By Code, each nominating organization must submit for Board review a minimum of one nominee for their vacant position(s), the nominee's resume and the minutes of the organization's meeting at which the nominee was selected. The required documentation for each of the nominees is attached.

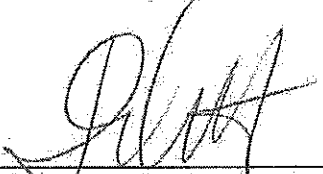
• Nursery Industry Representative (Seat 2 of 2)

Ms. Ivonne Alexander was nominated by the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association as their nominee for the appointment. Ms. Alexander is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Nature's Way Nursery of Miami, Inc. and Happy Days Nursery, Inc. Ms. Alexander previously served on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board, and has been the Director of the Dade County AgriCouncil, Dade County Farm Bureau, Dade County Fair and Exposition Association, and the Southern Florida Tropical Growers Association among others. The Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association recommended the appointment of Ivonne Alexander at their November 14, 2012 meeting.

- At-Large Representative

Mr. James S. Humble was nominated by the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board to serve as their At-large Representative. Mr. Humble has served as the At-large Representative since 2004, most recently as the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board Chair, and is also a member of the South Florida Water Management District Water Resources Advisory Committee. Mr. Humble has also served on the Combined Structural and Operating Plan Advisory Committee and the Florida Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Advisory Committee. Mr. Humble is the owner of PITA Groves in South Miami-Dade County. The Agricultural Practices Advisory Board recommended the reappointment of James S. Humble at their November 7, 2012 meeting.

The terms for the appointment and reappointment begin on January 1, 2013 and will expire on December 16, 2016.



Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 5, 2013

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(M) (1)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No.8(M) (1)
2-5-13

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ONE BOARD MEMBER AND
REAPPOINT ONE BOARD MEMBER TO THE
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, Sections 2-931 through 2-936 of the Code of Miami-Dade County provides for the creation, composition, terms, purpose and duties of the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-933 of the Code of Miami-Dade County specifically provides for the designated organizations to recommend at least one nominee; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association has recommended Ms. Ivonne Alexander to serve as the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association Representative Seat #2 on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James S. Humble completed his second term as the At-large Representative on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board and is eligible for a third term; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board has recommended Mr. James S. Humble to a third term as the At-large Representative on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-935 of the Code of Miami-Dade County directs that vacancies on the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board shall be filled by the Board of County Commissioners,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that with respect to the Agricultural Practices Advisory Board, Ms. Ivonne Alexander is hereby appointed to the Florida

Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association Representative Seat #2, and Mr. James S. Humble is hereby reappointed for a second term to the At-large Representative seat. Each individual listed above is hereby appointed to serve one four-year term beginning on January 1, 2013 and ending on December 31, 2016.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman
Lynda Bell, Vice Chair

Bruno A. Barreiro
Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman
Jean Monestime
Sen. Javier D. Souto
Juan C. Zapata

Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
Audrey M. Edmonson
Barbara J. Jordan
Dennis C. Moss
Xavier L. Suarez

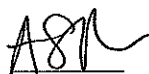
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of February, 2013. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Abbie Schwaderer-Raurell

AGENDA
AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 9:00 A.M.
John D. Campbell Agricultural Center Auditorium
18710 SW 288 Street, Homestead, Florida

- I. Attendance
- II. Chair's Report - *James Humble, Chair*
- III. Coordinator's Report – *Napoleon Somoza*
- IV. Adoption of November 2012 Minutes
- V. Agricultural Patrol Report – *Capt. Steve Rasmussen*
- VI. Agricultural Manager's Report - *Charles LaPradd*
- VII. Cooperative Extension Report – *Teresa Olczyk, Director*
- VIII. New Business
 - Presentation on Zoning Code Changes in the Agricultural Area: *Eric Silva, AICP, Asst. Director, Development Services Division, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources*
 - Adoption of 2013 Sunset Review Package
- IX. Unfinished Business
- X. Public Comment/Board Announcements
- XI. Set Agenda
- XII. Adjourn

**AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY**

John D. Campbell Agricultural Center Auditorium
18710 SW 288 Street, Homestead, Florida
November 7, 2012

Board Members Present

James Humble (Chair), Larry Caudle (Vice-Chair), John DeMott, Gary Dufek, Martin Motes, Diego Rodriguez, Robert Thompson, Erik Tietig and Arie de Zwart

Board Members Absent

Sam Accursio, Jonathan Borghi, Sandy Stein and Tommy Vick

Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (DRER) staff

Napoleon Somoza, Mark Dorsey and Cleveland Thompson, Planning Division
Martha Garcia, Environment and Regulatory Affairs Division
Charles LaPradd, Agricultural Manager, Consumer Services Division
Teresa Olczyk, Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension, Consumer Services Division

Other Miami-Dade County and Government Staff

Lt. Sheree DiBernardo, Miami-Dade Police Department, Agricultural Patrol Section
Elier Fernandez, Office of the Property Appraiser
Johanna Faddis (Dist. 8) and Dallas Manuel (Dist. 7), Board of County Commissioners
Rebecca Elliott, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Water Policy

Public Attendance

Debbie Brady, Dade County Farm Bureau
Pablo and Omooba Gallo
Don Pybas

Chair James Humble called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

Reports

Chair's Report

Chair Humble stated that the County Attorney's Office should follow the APAB ordinance, as adopted by the BCC, rather than make its own interpretation regarding the appointment of an At-large member to the APAB. Chair Humble passed the Chairmanship to Vice Chair Caudle to lead the meeting. Mr. Dorsey reminded the APAB that the County Code states that the Chair shall be nominated at the end of the calendar year, thus, Chair Humble is technically the Chair until the end of the December.

Coordinator's Report

Mr. Mark Dorsey announced he had received four applications for reappointment and is waiting for the Coalition of Florida Farmworkers to submit its nominee(s) for appointment. Mr. Dorsey said he overlooked Mr. Sandy Stein's reappointment to the APAB, since he completed the remainder of Mr. Jorge Abreu's term; Mr. Dorsey has since contacted the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) to inform them of Mr. Stein's eligibility for reappointment. Mr. Dorsey also said he had not received applications for the At-large Representative seat by the October 26th deadline, thus the APAB could nominate Mr. Humble, or another candidate, to the At-large seat. However, the Planning Division would still need the candidate's resume showing that 50% or more of their income is derived from agriculture, as required by the Code. Mr. Dorsey said he will be absent for the December meeting and Mr. Napoleon Somoza, Section Supervisor, will staff the meeting.

Agricultural Patrol Report

Lt. Sheree DiBernardo reported that Agricultural Patrol officers responded to 114 calls for service during the month of October 2012 and made 22 arrests. A total of 251 arrests have been made for the year. There were 21 thefts in October, up from 12 in September. Thefts included: stolen pots, of which a suspect was arrested; lawn equipment and small tangibles from nurseries; 1 Kubota Recreational Terrain Vehicle (RTV), several of which have been stolen over the last two months; 1 Bobcat; one avocado theft; banana thefts; pigeon and sheep thefts; and beehive thefts. Lt. DiBernardo suggested that golf carts, all-terrain vehicles, and other motorized vehicles should be placed inside a barn or garage, as those that are exposed or left unattended are most likely to be stolen. She also said the most frustrating problem Police continue to face is brass sprinkler thefts. Four were reported last month and 2 large thefts have been reported so far this month; she said a suspect was being interviewed this morning. Lt. DiBernardo stated that recycling centers are no longer reporting sprinkler heads thefts, as they initially did, as the criminals may have began reselling stolen goods to recyclers outside of Miami-Dade County.

Board members discussed the issue of stolen brass sprinkler heads and crime in the agricultural area and asked how many Police are on staff. Lt. DiBernardo said there are now approximately 8 officers in the unit. Board members suggested sending a letter to the Mayor and BCC to request more staffing for the Agricultural Patrol unit to combat crime in the agricultural community. Ms. Debbie Brady, Dade County Farm Bureau (DCFB), said they may insert a petition in their newsletter for recipients to sign and return to the DCFB. The Board also discussed having other organizations submit a letter to the Mayor and BCC. Chair Humble made motion to draft a letter to the Mayor and BCC; Board Member DeMott seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to draft a letter to request additional staffing for the Agricultural Patrol.

Agricultural Manager's Report

Mr. Charles LaPradd announced that the Wetlands Advisory Taskforce (WATF) will meet on November 8th, and said that he will provide an update at the next meeting. This Friday, November 9th, he will meet with representatives from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the County's Division of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) to discuss wetlands issues. Mr. LaPradd stated that he met with Zoning and DERM staff yesterday, November 6th, regarding the approval of agricultural uses on lots less than 5 acres in size. Agricultural uses are currently prohibited on these lots unless they are grandfathered or handled administratively. The proposed changes will be codified into the County Code.

Board Member Dufek questioned how the County could prohibit any use on lots less than 5 acres in size when the State statute does not require a minimum lot size. Mr. LaPradd said the referenced statute, Section 193.461 F.S., refers to taxation and is separate from zoning. A lot can be used for and receive an agricultural classification for tax purposes, but Code Enforcement could fine the owner for operating in violation of the Zoning Code. He said the current regulations require a 5-acre minimum lot size for any use of property outside the UDB except for grandfathered lots. The proposed code language would only allow some residential, with covenants, and agricultural uses.

Chair Humble said he and Mr. LaPradd met with DERM staff regarding the APAB's recommendation to the BCC to amend the County Code so that agricultural exemptions are consistent with State agricultural exemptions. That has not yet happened. He added that the wetland mitigation fee to convert wetlands to agriculture is currently \$85,000 per acre, yet developers who purchase the same property are exempt from the same wetland mitigation fee. He said the law is imbalanced to favor developers over farmers and should be changed. Mr. LaPradd said the problem is that Chapter 24 of the County Code defines agriculture as development.

Cooperative Extension Manager's Report

Ms. Teresa Olczyk said the hiring of a Tropical Fruit agent is undergoing the approval process and the County has to create the position. She hopes the University (of Florida) will be able to advertise the position in January 2013. Ms. Olczyk announced that today's "Train the Trainers" program has been

moved to November 27th. A "Green Industry Best Management Practices" workshop (in Spanish) for persons applying commercial fertilizers will be held on November 8th; this workshop is consistent with State law. A conference on the implementation of better nutrition standards and introduction of local produce to school children will be held on November 13th. And a Thanksgiving luncheon will be held at the Agricultural Center on November 14th from 3:00 - 6:30PM.

New Business

Nomination of At-large Representative

Board Member Tietig made a motion to nominate Chair James Humble as the At-large Representative to the APAB; the motion was seconded by Board Member DeMott. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was passed unanimously and was approved by an 8-0 vote as follows:

Sam Accursio	Absent	Sandy Stein	Absent
Jonathan Borghi	Absent	Robert Thompson	Y
John DeMott	Y	Erik Tietig	Y
Gary Dufek	Y	Tommy Vick	Absent
Martin Motes	Y	Arie de Zwart	Y
Diego Rodriguez	Y		
	James Humble (Chair)	N/A	
	Larry Caudle (Acting Chair)	Y	

Unfinished Business

Board Member Motes took exception to the characterization of his request from the Property Appraiser office regarding the elimination of outliers in the data request. Mr. Elmer Fernandez, Office of the Property Appraiser (OPA), said he had provided Board Member Motes with the median, but could separate them into categories of 0.0-5.0 acres and provide the median and mode, and from 5.0-7.5 acres, etc. He said it is difficult to exclude the "outliers" (the top 10 and lowest 10) from the research. Board Member Motes said his request is to develop an accurate analysis of the nature of agriculture and horticulture in Miami-Dade County. He believes the APAB may no longer represent the type of agriculture that currently exists; therefore, removing the outliers from the data (a common practice) may provide a more accurate representation of local agriculture.

Chair Humble agreed that agriculture changes over time but felt that all farmers, regardless of size, should be included in the data. Board Member Tietig suggested that the standard deviation would clearly show average farm size as well as the outliers. Mr. Don Pybus said the 2007 Agricultural Census data reported that 72% of Miami-Dade County farms were less than 5-acres. He said farm size can be looked at in terms of size or the value of sales; the USDA defines small farms as having less than \$250,000 in sales. Board Member Motes believes that Miami-Dade agriculture may better be defined as horticulture, which has the more intense profit per sq.ft./acre than traditional crops. Board Member DeMott said only Ferns, Hibiscus and Mandevilla/Dipladenia hybrids can be grown with enough volume to be considered a crop. He defined a crop as a monoculture; but did not understand the purpose of the research. Board Member Motes said he wants to know the percentage of the economic impact of small farmers in order to direct County services to support the industry. Vice-Chair Caudle said the majority of APAB members are small farmers. He said crops include horticulture, as well as corn, tomatoes and beans; although Miami-Dade doesn't compare to larger producers we have an important, multifaceted crop industry. Board Member Thompson suggested that small farmers should meet and present their concerns to the APAB rather than the APAB imposing its perception of needs to the community.

Mr. Fernandez said he will provide the standard deviation for all 8,300 parcels that receive an agricultural exemption. Mr. LaPradd added that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines all

nursery crops as harvestable agricultural crops, and the State defines agricultural crops as a plants or animals useful to humans.

Public Comment/Board Announcements

Ms. Rebecca Elliott, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Water Policy, announced that the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has begun "operational calls" regarding seasonal operations for the Military, C-102 and C-103 canals. The phone calls include stakeholders who advise the District on operational improvements and environmental sensitivity to Biscayne Bay; the first call will be held today at 1:00PM. Ms. Elliott will forward the information to Mr. Dorsey for distribution.

Ms. Johanna Faddis, Commissioner Bell's Office, announced that Commissioner Bell is working on certain items that came about as a result of the Wetlands Advisory Taskforce. Ms. Faddis will seek comments from the APAB at a later date. She said that Commissioner Bell has received and will sponsor the APAB member re-appointment requests. Ms. Faddis concluded by saying that Commissioner Bell wanted to express her thanks to the APAB and others for having received a Dade County Farm Bureau award.

Ms. Debbie Brady, Dade County Farm Bureau (DCFB), announced that former DCFB member and long time farmer Dick Natoli passed on November 4th; services will be held on November 8th at 11:30AM at Branam Funeral Home. Ms. Brady also announced the following winners in the Florida House of Representatives: Katie Edwards in District 98, Jake Raburn (a Florida Farm Bureau member) in District 57, and Holly Raschein in District 120.

Ms. Martha Garcia, Environment and Regulatory Affairs (RER), announced that she is available to address questions regarding the Wetlands Advisory Taskforce, wetland mitigation and permitting. Ms. Garcia also clarified that wetland mitigation fees are based on a property's biological and numerical analysis according to environmental quality. Although the set value per credit is \$85,000, the quality of a property is typically only ¼ credit or \$20,000 per acre.

Adoption of Minutes

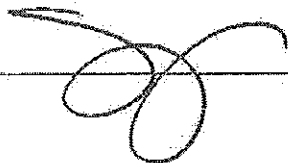
The Board adopted the October 2012 Meeting Summary. The following corrections were made to Page 4, last paragraph: *"She said Mr. Tom MacVicar McVicar and Mr. Charles Shen Shinn (Florida Farm Bureau) reviewed the resolution...the DCFB will hold its 70th Anniversary meeting on October 30, 2012 and they will honor the LaReea LaRocca family."*

Set Agenda

- Discuss the Wetlands Advisory Taskforce report.
- Proposed zoning code changes in the Agricultural area

Adjournment

With no further matter for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.



Stephen M. Dorsey, AICP, Coordinator



JAMES S. HUMBLE

P.O. Box 1569

Homestead, FL 33090-1569

Phone (305) 245-7089

Fax (305) 245 3380

JSHumble@bellsouth.net

Thirty-year veteran in water resource issue management with experience in consensus-building on water use and land management policies

EDUCATION: University of Miami, B.A., 1972

OCCUPATION: Owner, PITA Groves, South Miami-Dade County

EXPERIENCE: Member, South Florida Water Management District Water Resources Advisory Committee, 2002-Present

- Advises the Water Management Board on current issues affecting water quality, flood protection and environmental restoration

Chairman, Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices and Study Advisory Committee, 2007-Present

- Chair a committee of diverse stakeholders who advise the Board of County Commissioners on the potential and realized effects of current and proposed legislation that may impact agriculture

Member, Combined Structural and Operating Plan Advisory Committee, 2004-2007

- Joined environmental, agricultural, marine, homeowner and governmental stakeholders in assisting the Army Corps of Engineers in developing a plan to implement Comprehensive Everglades Restoration projects

Member, South Florida Water Management District Agriculture Advisory Committee, 1997-2000

- A precursor to the Water Resources Advisory Committee, committee members guided South Florida Water Management District staff in developing balanced policies that protected both water resources and agriculture as an economic industry

Member, Florida Department of Agriculture Agricultural Advisory Committee, 1997-2000

- Appointed by Commissioner Bob Crawford and reappointed by Commissioner Charles Bronson

- Provided input to the Commissioner on innovative ways to keep agriculture profitable and competitive.

Member, Florida Department of Community Affairs "380 Committee", 1986

- Appointed by Sen. Bob Graham
- Advised the Secretary on East Everglades matters as they related to its designation as an Area of Critical Concern

AWARDS:

Agriculturist of the Year, Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, 1984

Agricultural Advocacy Award, Dade County Farm Bureau, 2007

PERSONAL:

Married to Patricia Ireland, Esq.



FLORIDA NURSERY, GROWERS and LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

2012 DEC -3 P 4: 06

PLANNING DIVISION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING SECT

November 29, 2012

Mark R. Woerner, AICP
Assistant Director Planning Division
111 NW 1 Street, Suite 1250
Miami, FL 33128-1902

Dear Mr. Woerner,

This letter is to inform you that the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association Board of Directors has approved the nomination of Ivonne Alexander to fill the position as nursery industry representative for the Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board. Ms. Alexander would replace the position being vacated by Mr. Sanford Stein. This nomination was made at a scheduled November 14, 2012 Board meeting. The approval vote was unanimous by the Board members.

Enclosed as requested, are the November 14, 2012 Board minutes stating Board approval of the nomination of Ms. Alexander who we feel will do a superlative job representing the nursery industry in this important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff DeMott", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Jeff DeMott, Second Vice President
Miami-Dade Chapter FNGLA



FLORIDA NURSERY, GROWERS and LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION

**DADE CHAPTER FNGLA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2012**

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Ivonne Alexander, Jeff DeMott, Brian Evelyn, Sylvia Gordon, Jenn Helms-Shelley, Dr Bob McMillan, Bill Rotolante, and John Stewart

ABSENT: Lisa Greer, Allyson Humphries, Mary Schneider and Jane Spurling

STAFF: Kathryn Walters

ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER

Ivonne called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jeff made the motion to approve the October minutes, Sylvia seconded and all approved.

ITEM #3 PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Ivonne had a prior engagement that she had to step out for, so there are no remarks to report

ITEM #4 TREASURER'S REPORT

The October financial were presented. After discussion the report was accepted by BOD.

ITEM #5 STATE REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Sylvia presented the representative reports for review.

Jeff made a motion to donate \$300-\$500 to FFA competition with approval of Treasurer, Sylvia seconded and all approved.

ITEM #6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dinner Meeting

Jenn reported that the November 24th event is FNGLA Gives Back. Pairing with Chapman Partnership Facility in Homestead to prepare and feed homeless families.

December 13th Holiday Party with Dade County Farm Bureau at Schnebly's will be a buffet by Capri Restaurant, with DJ and Chinese Raffle. Farm Credit will donate \$500

(\$250 for meal sponsor and \$250 to toys). The price will be \$25 if member brings a toy and \$30 if they do not bring a toy. These toys will be distributed at the South Dade Skill Center on December 20th.

February 9th will be a joint event with Broward Chapter at Amelia Earhart Park. Shorty's BBQ is being considered to cater and there will be games. The Wedgeworth Alumni will be invited to this event.

Government Affairs

Jenn reported that there was a Veteran's Day parade and that Nascar races will be in Homestead this weekend.

Jenn stated that the City of Homestead is collecting items for Hurricane Sandy victims.

Membership

Brian reported that there were two new members.

Cooperative Extension

No report at this time.

Office Report

Jeff reported that a new monitor was purchased to replace the old one.

Nursery Tour

The tour is set for March 15th. Sylvia requested that each Board member submit two names that might be interested for a stop.

ITEM #8 OLD BUSINESS

Constant Contact

Jeff made a motion to remove this item from the agenda, Sylvia seconded for discussion and after vote, Sylvia opposed. Jeff will look into a free company that might do the same.

Sponsorship opportunities update

Past Presidents Meeting – Mary will set up this meeting

Comcast update

Jeff made a motion to remove this item from the agenda, Bill seconded and all approved.

Clay Archey visit

Brian reported that he took Clay to many nurseries and hoped that they would renew their membership or become a member,

Career Expo

No report at this time.

ITEM #9 NEW BUSINESS

The Landscape Show Report

No report at this time.

Presentation of Chapman and Cardwell to BOD

No report at this time.

Weather Service

The office will send an email to inform members that this will not be offered this year. It will also be in the Grapevine.

Office will be closed for Thanksgiving week and Christmas week holiday.

An email will be sent to the members and the closing will be announced in the Grapevine.

Appointment of FNGLA Representative to Ag Practices

Sylvia made a motion to nominate Ivonne Alexander for consideration by County Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners for Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board, Bill seconded and all approved. She will replace Sanford Stein. John Stewart offered to set in as alternate.

ITEM #10 ADJOURN

Jeff made a motion to adjourn, Bill seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Ivonne Alexander
12817 SW 148 Street Road
Miami, Florida 33186

Born in Havana, Cuba February 5, 1948, Ivonne moved to Miami at a young age. Times were hard for the Alexander family during those days and there was little money for such things as sweets. Ivonne remembers going to Crandon Park and eating seagrapes as a substitute. If you ask her she will tell how she detests them today.

She went to Shenandoah Junior High School and was active in sports. Friends will attest to the fact that she was a fierce competitor. This is a trait that has served her well throughout her career. After graduating from Miami High School, she attended Miami Dade Community College. She then transferred to Florida International University where she graduated.

Having worked her way through school, Ivonne spent some time working in New York City. She then settled into a 23 year career with Farm Credit. She started at the bottom rung and worked her way up to serving row croppers, fruit growers and nursery operations. She is well known and respected both inside and outside South Dade's agricultural community. She proved her worth to the community with her steadfast effort and long hours after Hurricane Andrew by structuring and closing millions of dollars in rehabilitation loans to farmers who could not have recovered without her help.

Ivonne is CFO of Nature's Way Nursery of Miami, Inc., a grower of outdoor landscape material catering to the big boxes and Happy Days Nursery, Inc., a moderate sized foliage and wood ornamental plant nursery located at 16700 SW 248 Street.

It is hard to find one more active in community affairs than Ivonne Alexander. The following is a list of her known affiliations:

1. Dade County AgriCouncil - Director
2. Dade County Farm Bureau - Director and President Elect
3. Dade County Fair and Exposition Association - Director and Past President
4. Southern Florida Tropical Growers Association - Past Director
5. 4-H Foundation - Past Director
6. Business & Professional Women's Club of Homestead - Past Director & Certified Member
7. Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce - Past Director & Certified Member
8. Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association - President
9. Dade County Cooperative Extension Advisory Committee - Member
10. Florida International University Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture - Advisory Committee
11. Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan - Member
12. Miami-Dade County Agricultural Practices Advisory Board - Member